

# MAIN DEFENSIVE GERMAN POSITION TAKEN BY BRITISH

## Teutons Are Driven From Strongholds West of Bapaume.

### COMPELLED TO RETREAT ON SWEEPING FRONT

#### Haig's Men Advance One Mile, Almost to Outskirts of Objective.

### BOMBARDMENT IS TERRIFIC

#### Village of Grevillers and Loupart Wood Are Abandoned to Victorious Forces.

Further notable gains have been made by the British forces against the Germans in the operations which have as their object the capture of Bapaume and a general reversion to the German line backward in the Somme and Amiens regions of France.

According to the British War Office communication, under another of the terrific British bombardments, the Germans have abandoned their main defensive system west of Bapaume on a front of three and a half miles to the death of a mile. The advance gave King George's troops the village of Grevillers and the Loupart wood, bringing the advanced British forces at the former place to a scant mile and a half from the northwestern outskirts of Bapaume.

North of the Amere the left wing of the British in this particular operation has bent back the German line in front of about a mile east and northeast of Goumeourt and somewhat straightened the curve extending from Essart-les-Bucquet to the region northeast of Puisseux-au-Mont.

### BRITISH TROOPS REPLENE GERMAN RAIDING PARTIES

To the north of this region, in the vicinity of Armentieres, Souchez and Neuville-St. Vaast and southwest of Neuve Chapelle, the Germans threw forward raiding parties, but all of these met with repulse, according to London, except in the last-named sector, where the Germans reached the British trenches and made prisoner some of the occupants.

Elsewhere on the line in France there have been only artillery engagements, which were especially severe in Champagne, on the sectors of Malouin, de Champanne and the Argonne, and at various points on both sides of the Meuse, in the region of Verdun.

The Turks evidently are being given no rest by the British operating against them northward from Bagdad along the Tigris River. After the capture of Bagdad on Sunday, the British cavalry kept on the heels of the retreating Turks and occupied the town of Karimain, five miles to the north, taking more than 100 prisoners. Operations are proceeding up the river in pursuit of the Turks. General Maude also reports the capture of large quantities of equipment, arms and ammunition.

### FIGHTING BREAKS OUT IN GALICIA AND MACEDONIA

Considerable fighting has again broken out in Galicia and in Macedonia, between Lakes Oehrida and Presha, according to the German War Office. In the former region, south of the Zlochoff-Ternopol railway, the Germans, in a raid on Russian positions, captured 222 Russians and thirteen of their machine guns, and near Brzezany and along the Narayvka River also made gains and took more than 250 prisoners.

In Macedonia the French essayed an attack between Lake Oehrida and Lake Presha, but were repulsed, says Berlin.

In the Austro-Italian theater the artillery of both sides continues to carry out bombardments against opposing positions, and raiding parties are still active.

Another German submarine has stranded on the Dutch coast.

A German converted cruiser is being chased by Japanese and British warships in the Indian Ocean.

### IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS PENDING ON WESTERN FRONT

LONDON, March 14.—Correspondents of the British headquarters in France, telegraphing concerning the capture by the British of Loupart wood and Grevillers, describe the positions abandoned by the Germans as being absolutely untenable.

It would seem, however, that the capture of Ires rendered the positions untenable. The British advanced troops are said to be hard on the heels of the Germans and more than keeping pace with their retreat.

The writers evidently are expecting the speedy occupation of the British of the town of Bapaume, although they stop short of actually predicting it with certainty.

The mist that obscured the country earlier in the day cleared during the evening. The weather became altogether finer, and there was an increase in the activity of the British troops.

One of the correspondents with the forces in operation said:

"We are on the eve of important movements, and the enemy is not likely to escape the pressure of them without severe damage, even if he escapes something like disaster."

Another correspondent wires that there should be important news available on Wednesday.

### GENERAL MAUDE DESCRIBES HIS CAPTURE OF BAGDAD

LONDON, March 13.—Lieutenant-General F. S. Maude, telegraphing late Sunday night, gives the following details leading up to and subsequent to the capture of Bagdad:

"(Continued on Second Page.)"

## Did You Get Your \$1.80 Worth of Candy?

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Did you eat \$1.80 worth of candy last year? If not, then you fell below the average the Census Bureau estimates every man, woman and child consumed in the United States.

The American people spent \$185,000,000 for factory-made sweetmeats in 1916. The candy industry has grown tremendously, census officials stating that sixty-five years ago the per capita consumption of candy was over 13 cents. Then there was only a total production annually of \$3,000,000. Now there are 2,500 candy factories, with aggregate capital of \$110,000,000 and \$185,000,000 total production.

## WOULD PAY \$25,000,000, BUT WITHHOLD APOLOGY

### Senate Committee Modifies Colombian Treaty to Contain Mutual Expressions of Regret.

### REPUBLICANS STILL HOSTILE

#### Leaders Say They Will Conduct No Filibuster, but Have Thirty Senators Pledged to Vote Against Ratification—Lodge Denounces It.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Modifications in the Colombian treaty were agreed upon to-day by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in an effort to meet Republican objections, and tomorrow Chairman Stone will lay the new draft before the Senate, with a view to pressing it for ratification before the end of the present extra session. Republican leaders, still hostile in spite of the changes, said to-night there would be no filibuster to prevent action, but that more than thirty Senators were pledged to vote against the treaty.

An amended, the expression of regret that anything should have occurred to mar the friendly relations between the two countries would be made in the treaty by both the United States and Colombia, instead of by the United States only, as in the original draft, and the amount to be paid Colombia for the separation of Panama was set at \$25,000,000. Last year the Senate committee cut the sum to \$12,000,000. In addition, the committee to-day recommended an accompanying resolution, proposed by Senator Knox, which would declare that the United States must not be understood to be apologizing for that there is nothing to apologize for.

### SENATOR KNOX VOTES TO APPROVE TREATY

Senator Knox, who, as Secretary of State under Taft, negotiated a convention with Colombia on the same subject, voted in the committee to-day to approve the present treaty.

Senator Lodge, ranking Republican member of the committee, issued a statement to-night, condemning the treaty, and declaring that even if he favored it, he would not support it at this time because he was not willing to have the country blackmailed.

"We are told, and truly, I have no doubt," he said, "that German intrigues and German influence have been active in Colombia, and, therefore, we must ratify this treaty at once and pay Colombia \$25,000,000."

"We are told that Colombia will furnish submarine bases to Germany from which she can assail our shipping and the Panama Canal, and, therefore, in the present crisis we must ratify the treaty and buy Colombia off with \$25,000,000 and a monopoly of Panama, as if we were not properly prepared for war I am well aware, but we have not yet sunk so low that Colombia can levy tribute from us."

### PEARY POINTS TO DANGER

#### Says Country Must Spend Energy, Money and Brains Generously for Defense.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 13.—Rear-Admiral Peary, in an address here to-day at a preparedness meeting for children, declared that the United States must spend energy, brains and money generously on its defense, or it would find with war on its hands, a host of airplanes sailing over its seaboard cities dropping bombs.

He said that in a few months three ships entered Hampton Roads without any hit being given of their coming. The Appam, smallest of the three, he said, could easily have housed a squadron of airplanes, and each airplane could easily have carried a thousand pounds of explosives.

Cardinal Gibbons, who also spoke, said:

"I want every boy here to be 100 per cent patriotic, so that whenever an emergency comes you will be ready to stand up for the dignity and honor of your country and hold back at no sacrifice in maintaining the rights of the greatest land on earth."

### Potomac on Rampage.

BALTIMORE, Md., March 13.—The Potomac River is twenty-two feet above normal to-night at Williamsport, in Western Maryland, and has overflowed its banks. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath is five feet under water. A heavy snowstorm is falling to-night on the Chesapeake Bay and has retarded bay shipping.

### Callahan Declines.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Patrick Henry Callahan, of Louisville, Ky., offered an appointment by President Wilson to the Federal Tariff Commission, has declined.

### YORK RIVER LINE TO BALTIMORE.

New Buffet Parlor Car between Richmond and West Point, leaving Richmond, Steamer Train, 5:10 P. M., and arriving Richmond 8:45 P. M., for passengers en route to and from Baltimore.—Adv.

## MYSTERY SHROUDS SHOOTING OF HETH

### Found Wounded in Home of Professor Vawter at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

### ALL SILENT AS TO CAUSE

#### Vawter Refuses to Talk, but Gives Bond for Appearance Before Grand Jury.

(Special to the Times-Dispatch.) BLACKSBURG, Va., March 13.—Stockton Heth, Jr., son of Captain Stockton Heth, of Whitehorse, near Blacksburg, was shot three times through the body at an early hour this morning at the home of Charles E. Vawter, professor of mathematics at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. No arrests have been made, but Professor Vawter went to Christiansburg this afternoon and, after waiting preliminary hearing, gave bond in the sum of \$1,000 for his appearance before the grand jury. His bondsmen are C. P. Miles and W. M. Brodie, of the college faculty.

Both Professor and Mrs. Vawter refuse absolutely to give out any statement relative to the shooting, and the only other occupant of the house, besides the Vawter children, was a young child, who was not awakened until he was called on to get a doctor. He also refuses to make a statement.

### MEMBERS OF FAMILIES INMORANT OF CAUSE

Members of the two families involved say positively that they know nothing of the circumstances surrounding the shooting or what led up to it, nor will Professor or Mrs. Vawter answer any questions on the subject. Professor Vawter will not admit or deny that he fired the shots.

It is stated that Heth was found in the upper hallway of the Vawter home, clad only in his pajamas, by the doctors who answered the call for aid. Heth has been in an unconscious condition in the Jefferson Hospital, at Roanoke, where he was rushed immediately after the shooting, and has been unable to make any statement, the only thing which he has said being, "I'm shot."

At a late hour to-night attending physicians state that he has an even chance to recover, although his wounds are dangerous.

Both the Vawter and Heth families are prominent in Virginia, and conflicting reports and stories have added to the deep mystery of the case.

### WAS FREQUENT VISITOR AT THE VAWTER HOME

Heth was a frequent visitor at the Vawter home. He was invited to spend last night with the Vawters, and in company with the family until midnight. He is thirty-two years of age, and for several years has resided at his father's country estate at Whitehorse, in Montgomery County. He is prominent in social circles of Southwest Virginia, and widely known throughout the state. He has a brother who is an officer in the United States Army, stationed near Washington. His father is in California.

The Vawters are also prominent in Virginia society. Mrs. Vawter is one of the most beautiful women in the State.

### JAPAN HONORS GUTHRIE

#### Government Will Designate Warship to Convey Body of Late Ambassador to United States.

TOKYO, Monday, March 12.—As a special mark of honor to the late George W. Guthrie, American ambassador to Japan, the Emperor is expected to detail a Japanese warship to transport the body to the United States. The official announcement designating the warship is anticipated with great interest, because, broadly interpreted, it will be a special manifestation of friendship for the American nation, especially as Japanese warships are at present occupied in patrol duty in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Great numbers of persons have visited the American naval hospital, where the body lies in state, the closed coffin surrounded with a beautiful wreath from the Emperor. The diplomatic corps sent a silver wreath designed by Japanese artists. The reception rooms are massed with floral offerings from Japanese dignitaries and Japanese and American organizations, Japanese officers and American military and naval attaches constitute the guard of honor.

It was unofficially announced to-day that the first-class steamer Avon probably would be designated to transport the body of the late ambassador to the United States.

### McCormick Denies Rumor.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 12.—Vance McCormick to-day denied a rumor that he would be named to succeed the late Ambassador Guthrie at Tokyo.

### ORGANIZATION COMPLETE

#### New Rural Credits System Soon Will Be Open for Business Throughout Country.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Organization of the new rural credits system was completed to-day with the appointment of officers and directors for the farm loan bank at Berkeley, Cal., the last on the list of twelve such institutions throughout the country to be opened for business soon under direction of the Farm Loan Board.

No date has been set for the opening, but the presidents of the twelve banks are to confer with the board here within the next ten days and work out details of putting the system into operation. The necessary steps for providing capital through bond subscription already has been taken by the Treasury Department.

## President Wilson Steadily Recovering

WASHINGTON, March 13.—President Wilson was able to leave his bed tonight and sit up for a while with members of his family. While he is still bothered with the severe cold he contracted a week ago, his condition otherwise is excellent, and signs of steady recovery are noted by Dr. Cary Grayson, his physician.

There is absolutely no basis for rumors that the President had a relapse. He is steadily recovering, and is stated authoritatively at the White House to-night, Dr. Grayson emphatically refuted reports that the President had developed symptoms of pneumonia.

The President, it was stated, was feeling excellent, but is obeying the strict orders given by his medical adviser to remain closely to his room until his cold, which, in this case, appears to be very stubborn, is fully cured.

## DEMOCRATS IN HOUSE TO CAUCUS ON APRIL 12

### Party Leaders Will Line Up Members for Fight on Speakership.

### KITCHIN RETURNS TO CAPITAL

#### Talk Still Heard of Bipartisan Organization—Both Clark and Mann Seek to Avoid Slightest Appearance of Sharp Practice.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 13.—Another series of conferences among Democratic House leaders to-day resulted in a call for a caucus here on April 12, four days before the opening of the special session to line up Democratic members for the speakership fight. The Republicans will caucus on April 14, and the five independents who will hold the balance of power between the two big parties will confer about the same time.

Democratic Leader Kitchin returned to Washington early in the day and talked over the situation for three hours with Speaker Clark. The caucus call sent out afterward contained an urgent request that every Democratic representative be present. The Republican leaders decided to hold a conference on April 5, and will take steps then to swing Republican members into line and clear away preliminaries for their caucus. There still is much talk of a bipartisan organization, but Mr. Kitchin said to-day he did not expect such a plan to materialize.

Both Speaker Clark and Republican Leader Mann, who will be the candidates for the speakership, are taking particular pains to avoid any appearance of sharp practices among their followers in the contest. Yesterday Mr. Mann urged Governor Whitman, of New York, to call a special election to fill the vacancy in the Democratic Fifth District of that State, and to-day Speaker Clark telegraphed Senator Hollis, of New Hampshire, asking that the State Legislature amend the laws so an election could be held before April 16 in the Republican district which was represented by the late Representative Sulloway.

### URGES WAY TO PERMIT ELECTION OF CONGRESSMAN

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Speaker Clark sent a letter to-day to Senator Hollis, of New Hampshire, urging that the New Hampshire Legislature pass a law that would permit the election of a successor to the late Representative Sulloway in time for him to participate in the organization of the House at the opening of the extra session, April 16. The Speaker wrote:

"I think that our folks in the Legislature ought to co-operate with the Republicans to pass a law so that the vacancy can be filled from the Manchester district in time for the Representative to appear here on the 16th of April for the organization of the House. That would be fair and proper. The intent of the Constitution and the desire of the people is that all districts be represented at all times, so far as possible, in the House of Representatives."

### MINERS ARE ENTOMBED

#### Eight Killed and Five Others Missing in Collapse of Explosion.

CANONSBURG, Pa., March 12.—Eight miners are known to have been killed, their bodies having been recovered, and five others are missing, as a result of two explosions, which early to-day wrecked the interior of mine No. 1 of the Henderson Coal Company, three miles north of here. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Eight engineers from the United States Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh and two rescue teams of the Henderson Coal Company are working in the mine, but have not advanced far from the opening of the shaft on account of smoke and gas. The crowd about the entrance of the mine became so large to-night that a call was sent to Burgettstown for State police to aid the company officers.

### Fashion Show

All that is latest in the world of fashion will be on display in Richmond's retail stores to-day and tomorrow at the Spring Fashion Show, conducted under the auspices of the Retail Merchants' Association.

The Fashion Show will not be given over entirely to the display of smart apparel, as each retail store has the stage set with the latest fashions and novelties and all that goes to make new spring stocks complete. In four years the Fashion Show, a semiannual event, has grown to be a Richmond institution, and the local merchants are anticipating record-breaking crowds.

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## VESSELS TO CARRY HEAVY ARMAMENT

### On Some Big American Liners Four Guns Will Be Placed.

### NO PRECEDENTS TO FOLLOW

#### Rumor From Berlin Says Submarine Campaign May Be "Altered."

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Armament heavy enough to combat any submarine that ever plunged beneath the seas is being mounted on American merchant vessels bound for the German war zone, the State Department said to-night. While details of the guns and gunners placed aboard the merchant ships were still concealed, the department asserted that the armament would be sufficient to protect the ships and the lives aboard them. It was understood to-night that in some instances the Navy Department plans contemplate placing as many as four big guns on liners, one mounted forward, one aft and two amidships.

The State Department is feeling its way cautiously in the matter of arming ships. It was stated to-day that never before in the world's history has a nation at peace taken steps similar to those now under way by the United States. There are no precedents to guide the department, and every move will be made with extreme caution in order to keep the international legal record straight. It was explained to-night that the orders to arm merchant ships are based upon the State Department's contention that these vessels, even though carrying contraband, are entitled to all the protection of international law. The guns will be put aboard in order to protect the ships and the lives of the crews. Under international law, these ships cannot be destroyed at sea without making ample provision for the safety of the lives of those on board, and the guns aboard are to prevent any disregard of this requirement.

The first armed ship that leaves for the war zone will carry an American diplomat, Hugh Gibson, secretary of the American embassy in London. Secretary Gibson was given permission to sail on the first vessel to depart under protection by the department to-day. It was stated that the arrangement was not made at the request of the State Department, but it was recognized that there would be great advantage in having a trained diplomatic observer aboard the vessel should she be attacked.

The destruction of another ship without warning and the imperiling of the life of an American was received from the war zone to-day. Consul Frost, at Queenstown, reported the sinking of the Cunard freighter Follo, with Dr. W. J. Core, of Nashville, Tenn., aboard. A late dispatch to the State Department from Consul Frost said:

"Seven lives lost in sinking of the Cunard Follo out of crew of seventy-eight. Follo bound New York to Avonmouth, and was torpedoed without warning five miles off Ramhead, County Waterford, in heavy fog Sunday at 7:30 A. M. Dr. Core and officers reached Bristol this morning."

### HINTS OF "ALTERATIONS" IN U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

COPENHAGEN, March 12.—Simultaneously with the arrival here of Ex-Ambassador von Bernstorff, reports were set current that there is a foot in Berlin a plan for an "alteration" of the unrestricted U-boat campaign. Important conferences are said to be under way in the German capital between German naval attaches in some of the neutral countries are said to have been summoned to Berlin to take part in these conferences.

The Norwegian Shipping Gazette, of Kristiania, learned to-day of "indirect efforts" to avoid war between Germany and America. These "indirect efforts," it is understood, developed during Count von Bernstorff's stay in the Norwegian capital.

Well-informed shipping men here were puzzled by the reference to a possible "alteration" of the U-boat blockade. The consensus of opinion is that in no circumstances will Germany modify unrestricted U-boat warfare to an extent that may weaken its effect on shipping in the countries blockaded. It is considered inconceivable that Berlin would at this stage suddenly exempt certain classes of neutral ships from the U-boat menace, since that would defeat its very purpose of starving the allies. Some observers believe Germany may declare noncontraband shipments exempt, but others say this would mean nothing, since in the present circumstances virtually all shipments destined for England, France or Italy are contraband, and as for passenger traffic, Germany already has stimulated a "safety zone."

The result of the Berlin conferences is awaited with intense curiosity.

### BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP SUNK WITHOUT WARNING

LONDON, March 14.—The Norwegian steamer Lars Pastenes (Lars Pastenes), bound from America for Rotterdam with grain for the American Relief Commission, has been sunk without warning outside the blockade zone, according to the Norwegian Mercantile Shipping Gazette.

This announcement is contained in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

The Central News says that the steamer was sunk in the North Sea.

No steamer under the name of Lars Pastenes is listed in available shipping registers. The Lars Pastenes is a new Norwegian steamer of 2,750 tons net. She was last reported as sailed from New York December 19 for Rotterdam.

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## Submarine Ready Every Three Days

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., March 13.—One submarine ready for service every three days is the job that the Lake Torpedo-Boat Company has undertaken at the behest of the United States government.

Hugh H. M. Robinson, former commander in the navy, and manager of the company, has assured the government officials that, by cooperation between his company and the other manufacturing plants of Bridgeport, forty-seven undersea boats can be delivered in six months, or at the rate of one every three days.

## EXPRESSES PROUD JOY OVER GERMAN ATTITUDE

### Bernstorff Gratified by Holding High of Nation's Head in Breach With This Country.

### DISTRESSED BY "PILOT" LEAK

#### Admitting He Handled Note to Mexico, Denies There Was Breach of Neutrality—No Conspiracies in Central and South America.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, March 12.—The Hamburger Fremdeblatt, according to Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, prints an interview its representative had at Copenhagen, in which Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, expressed proud joy at the way the German people are bearing, with their head held high, the result of the breach in relations with America which he (Bernstorff) so long prevented.

Count von Bernstorff is quoted as saying that he was deeply affected by the news, which he received for the first time at Kristiania, that instructions which had passed through his hands to the German minister in Mexico had come to the knowledge of the American government.

It is natural that his publication caused the greatest sensation in America, Count von Bernstorff said, declaring "we always strictly declined to mix ourselves in the politics of the American continent."

All American assertions about such intrigues in Haiti, Cuba and Colombia are fairy tales, Count von Bernstorff is quoted as saying, adding that positively so long as he was ambassador at Washington he was never aware of the slightest indication that the German government tried to influence the policy in Central and South American states in any sense hostile to the United States.

"We even sometimes subordinated great economic interests, which we have in all of those countries, to spare the sensitiveness of the United States," he declared.

The interview concludes with the declaration from Count von Bernstorff that from instructions to the German minister to Mexico it was clear that the Mexican government, if the United States did not declare war on Germany, never would have heard of Germany's intentions toward a German mouth.

"I believe it is hardly possible to have acted more correctly," he said.

### LEAVES COPENHAGEN ON SPECIAL FOR BERLIN

(By Associated Press.) COPENHAGEN, March 12 (via London).—Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, and his party left Copenhagen on a special train at 7:45 P. M. for Berlin. It is uncertain when the train will arrive, because of ice conditions, which have made all ferry traffic highly unsatisfactory for the last week.

### OUTCOME DEPENDS ON U-BOAT WARFARE

LONDON, March 12.—In the course of an interview granted to the Copenhagen correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch, Count von Bernstorff, interrogated as to whether he thought there would be war between Germany and the United States, replied: "That depends on our U-boat warfare. If we sink an American ship, we shall get war. If not, I suppose we can avoid it."

"And if," asked the correspondent, "Germany sinks British ships with American citizens aboard?"

"To this Count von Bernstorff replied: "That is not the same."

### PRINCES MAY LOSE TITLES

#### Bill to Deprive Enemies of All British Dignities Passes Second Reading.

(By Associated Press.) LONDON, March 12.—The House of Lords to-day passed the second reading of the bill to deprive enemy princes of British titles and dignities, after the government had promised to refer the bill to a special committee for further consideration. This promise was made as the outcome of differences between some of the peers, who desired to shelve the bill on the ground that it was absurd to regard certain princes as traitors.

The Marquis of Lansdowne agreed that the bill was only intended to apply to the Duke of Albany, the Duke of Cumberland, and Prince Albert, of Schleswig-Holstein, all of whom are related to the British royal family, and who, he agreed, could not possibly be regarded as traitors. The Marquis admitted that the bill was a mere concession to public opinion, and required more examination than it had previously received.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, a member of the war council, and government leader in the House of Lords, said the bill was supported by all parties in the House of Commons, and its rejection would expose the government to misrepresentations and probably provoke a public outcry which would interfere with the conduct of the war.

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## WILSON PREPARED FOR ANOTHER MOVE TO AVERT STRIKE

### Does Not Propose to Have Railroads Tied Up During Grave Crisis.

### NOT KNOWN WHAT ACTION HE IS CONTEMPLATING

#### Formal Orders for Nation-Wide Walkout on Saturday Are Issued to Employees.

### WILL ACCEPT NO COMPROMISE

#### Union Demands Just What They Were When Trouble Was Threatened Last Fall.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 12.—Complete plans of the four railroad brotherhoods for a nation-wide strike, to be inaugurated next Saturday evening unless the railroads grant their eight-hour-day demands were ratified here to-day by local union leaders from Southern territory and by a similar conference of representatives of the Southwest held in St. Louis.

The brotherhood heads will tell the conference committee in New York on Thursday that if an agreement is not reached this week for the establishment of an eight-hour basic day, with time and a half for overtime, strike orders already issued to local organizations will become effective. The demands are just what they were last fall, when President Wilson averted a strike after the call was out by inducing Congress to pass promptly the Adamson law, which never has been put into effect, pending a decision on its constitutionality by the Supreme Court.

There is every indication that the President is prepared to move again if it becomes apparent that the nation, facing the gravest international crisis of its history, is about to have its transportation facilities paralyzed. Although still confined to his bed by a cold, the President heard reports during the day from Secretary Wilson on the plans of the brotherhoods. "There was no statement as to what action he was contemplating, but it is understood to be probable that his first step may be an appeal to the employers and employees to reach an agreement as a patriotic duty."

### WILL SUPPORT GOVERNMENT SHOULD WAR BE DECLARED

It became known during the day that on March 7 the brotherhood chiefs wrote to the President, advising him of the meeting to be held with the railroad committee on March 13, and assuring him that if the country should become involved in war they would co-operate to the greatest extent in every possible way.

### STRIKE ON RAILROADS WILL BE PROGRESSIVE